

RENTAL HOUSING MEDIATION TASK FORCE
MINUTES
May 6, 2010
630 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, California, 93101
5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:

JOSHUA ALLEN	<u>E</u>	TRUDY PAUL	<u>X</u>
LESSA BECK	<u>X</u>	MARSHALL SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
BENJAMIN BUSH	<u>X</u>	BARBARA SMITH SHERRILL	<u>X</u>
SILVIO DILORETO	<u>X</u>	ROGER SIMPSON	<u>X</u>
JUSTIN DULLUM	<u>X</u>	SKIP SZYMANSKI	<u>X</u>
LYNN GOEBEL	<u>X</u>	SCOTT WEXLER	<u>X</u>
DANIEL HERLINGER	<u>X</u>	BRUCE WOLLENBERG	<u>X</u>

X = Present A = Absent E = Excused

Officers: Barbara Smith Sherrill Chair, Leesa Beck Vice Chair, Justin Dullum Secretary
Staff Present: Andrea Bifano, Sr. Rental Housing Mediation Specialist

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Rental Housing Mediation Task Force (RHMTF) was conducted in compliance with the standards set by the Americans with Disability Act. No members from the public were present to address the RHMTF on a particular issue.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Roger Simpson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting. Silvio DiLoreto seconded the motion and it passed.

4. UP-DATE ON FY 2010-2011 PROGRAM FUNDING:

- A. *City of Santa Barbara Community Development Block Grant/Human Services;*
- B. *City of Carpinteria Community Development Block Grant;*
- C. *Santa Barbara County – for RHMTF services to the Unincorporated Areas.*

Barbara Smith-Sherrill provided a detailed financial up-date at the March 4, 2010 RHMTF meeting regarding the three funding sources for the RHMTF named above. She added that the annual contract with the Santa Barbara County and the City of Carpinteria had not yet been executed; however, it was expected to occur during the month of June 2010.

5. OUTREACH:

A. *Fair Housing Month Proclamation:* The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors presented a Fair Housing Proclamation on April 13, 2010. Recipients' of the Proclamation were the Rental Housing Mediation Task Force, The Legal Aid of Santa Barbara County and PUEBLO;

B. *Discussion:* Mediators discussed possible future outreach locations.

6. THE SEMI-ANNUAL RECRUITMENT FOR CITY ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS:

Application Deadline: Monday, May 10, 2010, at 5:30 p.m: No Appointments were made to the Task Force. Chair Barbara Smith-Sherrill shared that Joshua Allen RHMTF Mediator (tenant category) had recently moved to San Diego and sent a letter of resignation to be effective April 21, 2010.

7. CASELOAD REPORT AND MEDIATION TRAINING: (1 hour)

A. *The Statistical Reports for the months of March and April 2010*: The Statistical Reports for the months of March and April 2010 were distributed.

B. *Mediation Case Review and Skills (Dispute Resolution Programs Act)*: Two mediations and the skills utilized to reach a resolution were discussed.

The first mediation was held during the month of April 2010. The Mediators were Bruce Wollenberg, Dan Herlinger and Justin Dullum and staff. The issue was a notice of Termination of Tenancy. The skills utilized to reach a resolution to the dispute included: Active listening, summary, and caucus. The mediation was successful and a Binding Settlement Agreement was written.

The second mediation was also held during the month of April 2010. The Mediators were Trudy Paul and Roger Simpson and staff. The issue was a neighbor/neighbor dispute. Both parties were accompanied by their support persons. The skills utilized were: Caucus, reframing issues and transmitting proposals between the parties. The mediation provided a forum for the parties to discuss their issues for the first time to each other. A Good Faith agreement was written.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair, Barbara Smith-Sherrill announced that the Annual Workshop for City Advisory Group Members would be held on May 19, 2010 at the Faulkner Gallery

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.